

Dear Friends of CRAN,

Our newsletter No. 20 contained several aspects concerning our planning for 1999. Today, we can give some further information:

1. For the school in Shama-Kedzi CRAN had applied to the „Alliance for community action on female education“ (FAWE) in Ghana to finance the equipment and furniture. This money has been granted per April 19th. Afterwards, staff members of FAWE accompanied by Doris Agmesinyale visited Shama-Kedzi to look into the project's state. They left with a positive impression. Thus, we are looking forward to the realization.

2. In Abakam, the school suffers from similar necessities, but there has not been a similar donation yet. At our April's CRAN meeting in Dortmund, we discussed about possibilities how to

- a) get an understanding of the conditions in the schools
- b) understand the possibilities and limits of the teachers' work, their working conditions and their training
- c) assist them in the use, improvement and enlargement of the equipment
- d) support CRAN Ghana to build up training programmes for the teachers.

Acting on behalf of the CRAN-Freundeskreis Anke Behrmann, teacher from Bochum, will contact the teachers in Ghana.

3. At present, the construction works for the Informal Centre of Education in Duakor are proceeding intensely. Some interesting aspects may be read in a separate report below.

4. In Liati-Wote mills, engines and storehouses are ready now. Work, however, cannot start yet due to the lack of additional parts for the Diesel engine necessary for running under tropical conditions (e. g., cooling plant).

5. The application for the Microcredit Programme has been prepared and is now ready to be sent. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Ghana have signed a treaty in December 1998 concerning Microstart Ghana. According to this treaty the establishment of up to 10 microfinance organizations in the country shall be supported in cooperation with the African Development Bank. This is a promising start. CRAN will introduce this possibility of gaining support to other organizations, too.

6. As soon as February, CRAN has contacted Moree, a fishing-village east of Cape Coast. A small group of eight persons has emerged who meet on a regular base to read the Bible. We hope that God will continue to help and that a new community will come into life soon.

7. The Cape Coast office indeed needs a reliably functioning computer, especially when considering the extension of the Microcredit Programme. In the end of July a group of 10 people will travel to Ghana to take part in a workcamp for three weeks. They will convey the suitable equipment and, as some of the participants are computer specialists, they will be able to install it there, and to give a practical introduction to the concerned staff.

8. More than in the past, „Fundraising“ (i. e., where to get the urgently needed money from) has become an important topic focussed by CRAN in Ghana as well as in Germany. At further growth the CRAN Freundeskreis will not be able to finance its activities on its own, and therefore the question arises, which alternatives exist beyond the search for sponsors of only single projects. Doris and Seth Adzadi have visited Accra for a conference on that subject in April, and already in March there has been a workshop for the staff of CRAN Ghana, dealing partly with this issue. The matter was discussed by our managing board (Vorstand) as well as at the CRAN members' general meeting (Freundestreffen).

In principle we state:

- a) We want to maintain our identity as a Christian group, striving for both spiritual and humanitarian aid to relieve the needs of the poor.
- b) The relation between project work and advertising must be kept in a reasonable proportion.
- c) We encourage CRAN Ghana's efforts within the country to gain financial means for the project work.
- d) As long as Patrick stays in Dortmund, we see good opportunities for him to address his country people in Germany in order to win their support.
- e) We consider it the best way of growth to widen our Freundeskreis by establishing personal contacts with individuals and groups who understand and agree with the ideas of CRAN Ghana.

Therefore, as usual, CRAN is managing many works unfinished yet and is in need of many workers - in Ghana as well as in Germany. Everyone willing to join us will be welcomed open-hearted by any of us. Please pray for our work. God is more open-hearted than we can ever be. Yours sincerely, Hans Wallhäuser  
Mary Amewugah comes from Liati-Wote in the Volta Region and has been living in Koforidua, the capital of the Eastern Region, for many years. Since 1994 she has been working for CRAN, first on a honorary, then on an avocational base. She coordinates the work in Wote and can also make use of her skills as an experienced professional nurse. Her husband William has been a member of the advisory council (Beraterstab) of CRAN Ghana from the beginning. Both of them have also gained a lot of practical experience in the course of their work in Christian communities.

Koforidua, February 14th, 1999

Dear Friends of CRAN,

Peace and many blessings.

The mills project is proceeding well and we hope that by the end of March everything will be completed for full operation. The women and the whole community is excited about the project.

The general work in Liati-Wote is going on steadily. The problems we face from time to time are natural with every new project. The family planning and health counselling work has not been very successful yet. Most of the women do not want to come though they see the general need. I am therefore searching for new methods of approach this year. One idea is to initiate child welfare to attract especially young and needy mothers. We shall additionally offer counselling to them how to prepare good nourishing food and how to observe personal hygiene. In this way, we could be able to establish contacts at least once a month and to tell them about Christ the Lord. But all this is in the state of planning together with CRAN Cape Coast.

Koforidua, April 6th, 1999

Dear Friends of CRAN,

I hope the Lord is keeping you and is granting you the grace that you need.

Enclosed are some photos I took in Wote. You see the girls<sup>1</sup> sewing in someone's premises. For learning they use cement papers<sup>2</sup>, and some of them also wear dresses made from the paper. By July three of the girls will complete their apprenticeship. They are very confident as they are able to sew now and becoming autonomous.

The buildings for the mills are almost ready except the roofing, but the necessary wood is already prepared. The iron sheets and nails are yet to be brought from Hohoe<sup>3</sup> during this week.

There are also pictures of how we celebrated the Easter here in Wote from the Good Friday to Monday.

Since a lot of people were gathered for the occasion, I took the opportunity to talk to them on sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/ Aids and family planning. The white lady in the picture was, by the way, a guest of honour on our fund raising durber for roofing the Junior Secondary School of Wote. The roof was destroyed by a storm some time ago. She is from California but working in Wote.

We send our sincere greetings to you all.

William an Mary Amewugah

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<sup>1</sup>sewing apprentices

<sup>2</sup>The general use of real cloth for the apprenticeship would be too expensive.

<sup>3</sup>the next city

Informal Centre of Education for Women, Duakor  
Extracts from the interim report of CRAN Ghana for the sponsor EZE

#### A. The „software“ components

A number of meetings to talk about the technical realization of the construction works were held. Participants were village chiefs and elders, representatives of the district council and the committees for village development, Women's groups and the local Church communities from villages in the concerned region.

In this way, the motives and expected results of the project on the living conditions were made transparent. The primary aim of these meetings was to gain support for the project and especially to convince the (male) heads of the families of the benefits the project would mean for their women.

On the part of the land owners<sup>4</sup> the necessary grounds for the project were made available. In accordance with the usual approach of CRAN a local project agent was appointed - in this case, a teacher from the village, member of the local Church - who is responsible for supervising the construction works, who manages the daily matters, and who coordinates the assisting work of his village people.

By now, this has been managed in an excellent manner.

#### B. The physical construction works

The construction started on March 18th, 1999. The present works have reached the roofing. The workers are mainly employed by constructors from Ho-Fiave, who also built the school for 4th to 6th classes in Abakam last year. They do not only offer work of high quality at prices considerably below market prices. During their stay they additionally take an active part in the Church community and teach the local workers their skills. A number of people from Duakor have also been employed for the construction works, so that the village people can take the project as their own. Assistance (carrying bricks from the main street to the building site, digging etc.) is given by the village, i. e. team work by inhabitants in general or by particular groups like the Church community, the women or the youth. CRAN is very content with the help of the village people. Abakam with its CRAN school is not far away, the people know each other. Thus, the village of Duakar strives for helping CRAN as engaged as the Abakam people did.

#### C. Finances

EZE has remitted the first rate of 15.500 DM of a total budget maximum of 30.000 DM. Up to now, 86% of this first rate have already been spent. Differences from the budget originally planned are caused by the introduction of a value-added tax in Ghana after permission of the project and before the remittance of the money.

Additional costs emerging from the following inflation have at least partly been avoided by the procurement and storage of material en gros at the beginning also for periods later in the year.

Further, there is an unexpected additional need for a greater amount of sand and stones. In the past, the usual practise within construction works in the region was to take the necessary materials from the shore. Today, this practise is prohibited to save the shore's environment and because of security reasons. Villages who do not act in accordance to the new law are likely to be threat by police or military forces. Apart from that, CRAN does not want to cause further ecological harm either.<sup>5</sup>

We are pleased with the progress we already have made, and we are looking forward to a further prolific cooperation with an appreciated development organization like EZE.

The short message of the village people is „Ayeeeko-o-o“ (thank you and keep your strength), and as CRAN we say „we know our Lord is able to make all grace to abound“.

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<sup>4</sup>from the Fanti people; Duakor itself is inhabited by immigrated Ewe

<sup>5</sup>We faced the same problems during the construction of a school in Shama-Kedzi 1998